



## **Building Offenses**

September 1, 2024 | Pastor Bradley Walters  
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**14** "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. **15** But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."

**Matthew 6:14-15 NLT**

Psychologists generally define forgiveness as a conscious decision to release feelings of resentment, regardless of whether they actually deserve it.

**The need for forgiveness is paved by offense.**

**If forgiveness is needed, offense was present.**

### **1. The Enemy Uses Offense**

**10** ... many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. **11** Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

**Matthew 24:10-11 NKJV**

When we are offended, we crave agreement.

## **2. Offense Isolates You**

An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars.

**Proverbs 18:19 NLT**

Holding on to offense leads to building up a fence.

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

**John 13:35 NIV**

## **3. Forgiveness Sets You Free**

For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

**2 Corinthians 3:17 NLT**

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" <sup>22</sup> "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"

**Matthew 18:21-22 NLT**

We find freedom from sin with Christ's forgiveness,  
and we find freedom from offense when we forgive others.